

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 21, 2009 concluded as follows for the subject application:

- Claims 1-2, 7-10 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Irwin (US 2003/0204728 A1) in view of Siegel (US 2004/0203799 A1) further in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA); and
- Claims 3 and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irwin in view of Siegel further in view of Yla-Outinen et al. (US 2004/0152469 A1)
- Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irwin in view of Siegel further in view of Jensen et al. (US 6,185,612 B1)
- Claims 14-20, 23-29, and 31-36 are allowed.

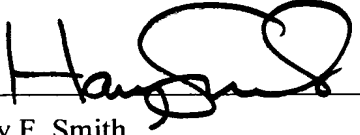
Please note the Office Action Summary page fails to mention claim 30, however, claim 30 is rejected in the detailed action. Also, it is assumed the Examiner's reference to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) under the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection is a mistake and that the Examiner meant to state 103(a).

Claims 1-13, 21, 22, 30, and 37-39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot their respective rejections. This leaves only allowed claims 14-20, 23-29 and 31-36. Please note that allowed claim 17 has been amended above to correct a typographical error.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the extensive examination already to date, and now respectfully requests the claims 14-20, 23-29, and 31-36 presented herein now be finally passed to issue.

S.N.: 10/801,584
Art Unit: 2416

Respectfully submitted:



Harry F. Smith

Reg. No.: 32,493

10/15/2009
Date

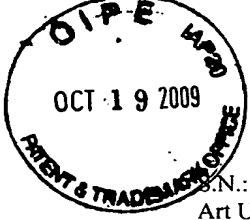
Customer No.: 29683

HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212

Telephone: (203)925-9400

Facsimile: (203)944-0245

email: hsmith@hspatent.com



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Oct. 15, 2009

Date

Nail Conway

Name of Person Making Deposit